

Subduing the Most Dangerous Criminals With a Twist Of the Wrist

The police chiefs of the future will pick their men for quickness of eye and brain, rather than for hugeness of bulk and muscular power, if John J. O'Brien has his way.

O'Brien once served as inspector of the police force of Nagasaki, Japan. There he learned jiu jitsu, and with it returned to his native land to tell Americans that the way to fight is with brain cells, not with muscular cells. When a thug comes at a jiu jitsu expert with a revolver and points it in his face, the expert by a single quick move can knock the thug's revolver from his hands and at the same time grasp his opponent's wrist and hold him in his power.

Jiu jitsu has been called Japanese wrestling, but it is more than this. It isn't like any other art of self-defense. It makes use of the physical possibilities and limitations of a human being, and by taking advantage of all the strength of the body, the expert can whip anybody. Boxing isn't it. Wrestling, as Americans wrestle, is clumsy by comparison.

Among O'Brien's pupils was Frank Gotch, champion wrestler of the world. Gotch's toe-hold, which won him many victories, was not an ordinary wrestling hold. It was jiu jitsu. Another pupil was Jack Johnson, the pugilist. If O'Brien stood up and let Johnson slug him O'Brien would be beaten to a pulp. But O'Brien can dodge the pugilist's fists and seize him by the wrist. Then Johnson is as helpless as a mouse in a cat's mouth.

Roosevelt was another of O'Brien's pupils and a devotee of jiu jitsu. Through O'Brien's efforts police in New York, Boston, Chicago, Detroit and St. Louis have learned, or are learning, some of the points of jiu jitsu. Brawn is not the most wonderful thing. Humanity conquered the rest of the world ages ago by the use of the brain. Man, who has studied the animals, knows how to get them into his power. Man studied build of animals, not his own.

Any farmer knows that the most sensitive portion of a horse is his upper lip. A man can hold the horse by his lip so that he will be perfectly docile. A kicking cow can be controlled by slipping a rope under her flanks and drawing it tight across the back. While men have been studying other animals and conquering them they have been slow to study themselves. The Japanese alone of all the people of the world learned the art of controlling the human body by catching certain muscles.

Years ago O'Brien was in the United States Navy in search of adventure. The navy became too tame so he quit the day his enlistment expired and enlisted in the Nagasaki police. The most crooked crooks of the world haunt Nagasaki. All the dark ways are known to them and they know more of cruelty than the white man. O'Brien was confronted with the task of combating Japanese crooks he met. They were Oriental and under-sized, yet they were able to beat him in combat. In time, however, he learned jiu jitsu and with his American strength and his superior brain he soon was able to cope with the most skillful of them.

Jiu jitsu received much publicity in America a few years ago when Katsukuma Higashi visited America. Higashi is a Japanese noble and a master of the science and art of jiu jitsu. Upon the invitation of the New York police commissioners he went to police headquarters and met the strongest and best fighters among New York's police.

Higashi is a little man. In fact, he is dwarfed if judged by American standards. Yet he sent the big, burly men of the central office this way and that.

It was a battle of a little, mild-mannered man, who scarcely exerted himself, against powerful fighters, with all honors to the runt.

Jiu Jitsu Is Not a Gentlemanly Art.

Jiu jitsu isn't a fair way of fighting, according to rules of American sport. If a man entered the prize ring and employed the art the umpire would throw him out of the ropes and the spectators would hoot him out of town. If he used jiu jitsu on the wrestling mat in all its forms he would be forever disgraced.

But jiu jitsu is not meant to be a gentlemanly sport. It is for use in dark alleys and hallways in defense against a deadly enemy. It is to be used by defenseless women against maulers and insulting men. Masters of the art advise wives whose husbands beat them to turn around and beat their husbands—as soon as they learn jiu jitsu.

Jiu jitsu has three branches: tricks with bare hands, tricks with sticks and tricks with ropes.

Japanese policemen carry two ropes—one three and a half feet long and another sixteen feet long, looped around the thigh. With these

ropes they can overcome and bind anyone in a short time. The stick is the size of an American policeman's club, but is not used to strike. It is used as a lever to twist a man up in his own clothes and make him helpless.

In jiu jitsu the pupil learns to break the arm, back, neck, leg, heel, or any other part of his opponent's anatomy. He is taught to deliver deadly blows, many of which are unknown to the American boxer and have been known for centuries. Many of them have been learned by American boxers from the Japanese. These blows are not given with the fist, but with the second knuckle of the right hand. One of the deadly points is just behind and below

most any of them can tell how to seize an opponent and make him howl with pain.

Boxing and wrestling experts contend that the science is not equal to American forms of personal combat. That is because of the fairness of the American way of fighting. "Don't strike a man when he is down," is an American rule that is rarely violated.

The jiu jitsu expert, however, strikes any time. He strikes to beat the enemy and if he is a devoted follower of the science he has no cure what will happen to the other



John J. O'Brien illustrating how to disarm a man by jiu jitsu.

either ear. Another is the temple. The knuckle protrudes so as to make a hard, bony point. There are 160 tricks to be learned in jiu jitsu fighting.

Japanese Begin Study When 10 Years Old.

In Japan the boys begin the study of jiu jitsu at the age of 10 years. One of the tricks is to trip the opponent and strike him when falling. That makes the blow more effective, as the falling man has no opportunity to relax before the blow. A policeman, meeting a burglar in a hand-to-hand combat at night, has no opportunity for mercy. There is only one way to fight at such a time and O'Brien advises to fight the dirtiest way and with the greatest disregard to rules that a man knows. It's war when a policeman meets a burglar. It is not a gentlemanly combat.

In order to harden themselves for striking blows the Japanese practice by striking their hands against wood. They often strike, when they fight, with the hand open and with their little finger edge. That blow is quicker than with the clenched fist. A fraction of a second in speed wins many fights and that is what jiu jitsu aims at. It is not to be learned as sport. It is to be learned for serious work. The finker blow also strikes a smaller place and is more like the blow of an ax than that of a clenched fist.

When Higashi exhibited in New York he turned his back on the policemen and told them to take hold. The diminutive Jap was seized but it was impossible to hold him. Against boxers the jiu jitsu man waits his opportunity. He doesn't fight back. At the opportune time he seizes the boxer's wrist and then the battle is over. The boxer is completely in the power of the jiu jitsu expert. He is as helpless as the horse whose lip is held.

In Japan none are allowed to study jiu jitsu unless they first take an oath to use it only in a just cause. Before lessons are given the character of the man and his parentage are investigated to learn what use he would make of his knowledge.

Jiu Jitsu Is Not Fair, but Effective.

Many American school boys know some of the tricks of jiu jitsu. Al-

low, he would just as soon leave his enemy with a broken back as not.

One of the important teachings of jiu jitsu is to keep from getting angry at the enemy. Anger costs many victories and brings many defeats. The man who can remain cool and collected at all times in any kind of a game or encounter has the odds on the other fellow. Jack Johnson fighting Jim Jeffries at Reno, kept his head cool all the time. Perhaps he would have won if he had gotten mad, but his coolness helped much. The jiu jitsu fighter smiles at the time and takes the heart out of his opponent.

Two men running a cross country race were all but exhausted as they came into the home stretch. The man who was the weakest sized up his opponent as they ran side by side. The weaker man saw that his opponent was running steeper. Mastering all his strength, the weaker man sang out cheerfully, "Say, pal, you're a pretty fair runner, but you run too much in the same place."

The tone of voice of the weaker man so disheartened his opponent that he dropped out of the race. He thought it was no use.

The jiu jitsu men also use the tricks of the French, who fight with their feet. While boxing, the jiu jitsu man can kick under the arms of a boxer and land a terrific blow in the small of his back.

A Collection of Grips, Twists and Blows.

Jiu jitsu is purely a collection of grips, twists and blows, designed to do bodily harm to an opponent. They always aim to send the opponent to the City Hospital for emergency treatment and if they fail in that they will send him to the morgue. It is fighting of the most desperate kind—just such fighting that an American policeman in St. Louis or San Francisco would be likely to resort to when he found himself against an antagonist who cared nothing for life or limb.

In fighting with Americans, in order to demonstrate their art, Japanese teachers, who visited America a few years ago and tried to popularize their way of fighting, had to eliminate some of their best tricks because such tricks would have sent

their opponents to the graveyard. As a result American fighters of skill usually were able to defeat their Japanese rivals. Fighting with men who were merely strong, the Japanese were easy victors, however.

Jiu jitsu is only 300 years old. It was invented for the benefit of the nobility of that country, who had been accustomed to going about carrying a sword for self defense. At times their swords were left at home and they were powerless to defend themselves when they met bands of ruffians. Experts were sent out to study fighting and to study the most deadly blows. Physicians were called into consultation. Murderers were questioned.

They were asked how they killed, where they struck and how often. Experiments were made on convicts, when the most effective means of killing and maiming a man had been learned the science was put in a book and the nobles were taught all about it.

Experts Are Prepared to Sacrifice an Arm.

One of the bare-hand tricks of jiu jitsu involves losing an arm. It, of course, is to be used only in an emergency, as it can be used only once. The trick is when an unarmed man is fighting a man with a sword. The unarmed man throws one arm up in such a way as to get the full force of a sword blow. The sword, if used with great force, will cut off the man's arm, but the man using it will be unable to regain his balance for a second and the one armed unarmed man can then take his good arm, get a death hold on his opponent and kill him.

Fighting on the defensive is another trick of jiu jitsu. The jiu jitsu fighter prefers to let his opponent come at him. When a blow is struck he lets the blow pass by and then clinches with his assailant.

The quiet man wins because he makes the other fellow do all the work. The jiu jitsu says the hand is quicker than the eye, but the jiu jitsu says the reverse is true. The man who sees quickly is the one whose brain can tell his muscles what to do quickly. In training for jiu jitsu O'Brien trains his men to be quick of eye and quick of muscle. The object is to catch the enemy in

his rest period after an exertion. When a fist is shot out the wrist is grasped just at the conclusion of the blow.

Another trick is to double another man's fingers up so they bend back on each other. An arm can be twisted in such a manner that the enemy can be thrown on his side. For he it from an American to strike another in the stomach, but the jiu jitsuist has no such ethics. He not only would strike at the stomach, but he would kick at it. The harder he could land with the point of his shoe the better he would feel and the worse the enemy would feel.

A trick known to all Orientals is that of getting a man by the shoulders, forcing his head down and throwing him across the shoulders. In doing it the expert drops to his back and quickly raises his knee against the abdomen of his opponent. With the knee as a lever he tosses the opponent across his head and endeavors to have him light on his head, breaking his neck.

Makes Enemy Believe He Has Advantage.

In jiu jitsu there are many tricks to give an apparent advantage to an enemy. One of these is to fall to the floor when struck. A champion boxer might stoop over his enemy. That would give the man on the floor a great advantage. He would seize the boxer's foot and twist his toes until he would fall head first to the floor. The next move would be to break the boxer's legs.

Boxing is one of the most ancient forms of fighting. The Romans fought with brass knuckles or similar contraptions. Their prize fights were fights to the finish. Americans could fight that way, too, if they wished, but they do not wish. It doesn't sound fair. Even an enemy is not struck when down. American school boys in a fight stop when the other fellow hollers "nuff."

Americans on cattle ranches and in lumber camps quit when the other fellow is helpless. Sometimes an unusually cruel and vicious man strikes another when down. Sometimes he kicks him, but he always receives the condemnation of the crowd. For the same reason knucklers have been abandoned by the American. Respectable people will

How an American Formerly Connected With a Japanese Police Department Is Teaching Crook Hunters of Our Large Cities to Capture Prisoners Without Violence.

has been perfected mostly in England and among English speaking peoples. Americans, Australians and Canadians are the champions of boxing. Other Europeans fear the English and immigrants to America are in terror of the Americans' fists.

Americans and English Lead With the Fists.

Others may know a great deal about wrestling, but the American and English fight best with the fists. The art of fighting with the feet was perfected by the French, and was introduced to America by the Canadian French. It is almost a neglected art in America. Wrestling

not carry them and thugs dare not. When a man is arrested with knuckles in his pocket it means he will be taken to police headquarters and investigated. It may mean a Work-house sentence. It may even lead to an investigation which would mean a penitentiary sentence.

In the last century or two boxing reached its highest develop-

ment in the Turner halls of Ger-

many and neighboring nations. It is only in recent years that wrestling became universally practiced in the United States and was learned by the multitudes. Every land leads in some fighting art. Champions may arise anywhere at any time. In the jiu jitsu art, the champions have all been Japanese.

MODERN AND ANCIENT EDIFICES

The modern skyscraper has been assailed on numerous grounds. The conservative architect has found fault with it because it disturbs precedents to which he is accustomed; the aesthetic charge that it violates the canons of good taste; the cantankerous declare that it is injurious to health because it shuts out the sun and light from lower buildings, and civic authorities view its multiplication with concern; as it has a decided tendency to congest population, thus making the policing and fire protection of certain districts in cities exceedingly difficult.

Notwithstanding these and other objections the tendency to build skyscrapers increases and spreads. Their erection is no longer confined to the large cities; towns of no considerable importance are building skyward; a fact which conclusively disposes of the assumption that the impelling cause of the tall building is landlord greed and the high cost of land. The phenomenon is peculiarly American at present, but Europe is gradually, if reluctantly, imitating the architectural achievements of the United States which her critics have long denounced as "monstrosities."

The opposition of Europeans naturally suggests that the tall building is a modern conception, but history does not sustain such an assumption. How much of the freely expressed admiration of ancient writers of the beauty of the Roman capital was due to its lofty buildings it would be hard to measure, but a people as unreservedly fond of big things as the Romans must have been vastly impressed by their tall structures.

Just how tall the highest buildings of Rome were it is impossible to state with precision. Critics lean to the belief that seven stories, or about seventy feet, was the maximum height of houses. But there are passages in the classic writers which dispute this assumption. There is one in Martial in which he speaks of a man carrying his purchases "home with him, and up some 200 steps." Very low treads

would make 200 steps reach to a lofty top floor. Juvenal and Horace also speak as if the roomers to the upper stories of the insulae of Rome had a hard climb to get to their apartments.

The ancient mode of construction in order to carry up a building even to the height of seven feet required very thick walls which precluded the possibility of utilizing a narrow lot by building high in the air. But this difficulty was overcome by constructing with insulae or tenement houses. Evidently there were at times agreements between individual owners of ground by which party walls were dispensed with, thus permitting the erection of lofty buildings. After the great fire in Rome an edict was issued by Nero which put a stop to this practice and compelled owners to separate their properties by spaces or walls.

Rome was not the only city in antiquity to erect lofty houses, nor was it the earliest. The Homeric epics contain numerous allusions to cities with wide streets and tall buildings erected in Greece and Asia Minor nearly a millennium before the Romans made an impression on history. In one of his odes Homer alludes to the demolition of "lofty" cities, and the other classic writers refer to them invariably in terms which create the impression that tall houses were admired even though living in the upper stories subjected tenants to the inconveniences of climbing many flights of stairs, which, by the way, were usually on the outside of high buildings.

As the propensity to build upward has been so general, and has endured so long, Americans cannot justly be accused of cultivating a taste for the abnormal. With the Bible story of the attempt of the Babelians to reach the heavens, the evidence of the pyramids and the striking remains furnished by Hadrian's mausoleum, now the castle of St. Angelo, to us straight, we may properly assume that if the idea of the modern elevator had suggested itself to the ancients they would not have left us the distinction of erecting the tallest structure put up by man.